

Appln No. 09/857,715

Amdt date October 4, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 2, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 of the Substitute Specification submitted with the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment of May 31, 2002 as follows:

This application claims priority of International application number PCT/DE99/04028, filed December 10, 1999, which in turn claims priority to German patent application number ~~198 49 087.3~~ 198 59 087.3, filed December 10, 1998.

Please insert the following paragraphs following the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 of the Substitute Specification submitted with the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment of May 31, 2002:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a method for separating image sequences stored on media into individual sequences according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Please insert the following paragraphs following the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 23 of the Substitute Specification submitted with the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment of May 31, 2002:

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FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a exemplary method 100 for separating image sequences stored on media into individual sequences according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown, the exemplary method 100 includes determining sequence changes of a first type 102 and setting separation markers of a first type 104 for sequence changes of the first type. In an exemplary embodiment, a sequence change of the first type is determined when a mean image brightness of a current image exceeds an upper threshold value or is less than a lower threshold value. In this embodiment, the threshold values are calculated from a moving mean value of the image brightnesses of preceding images. In one embodiment, the moving mean value is calculated based on the preceding sixteen images, although in other embodiments, any appropriate number of images may be used in the calculation of the moving mean value.

The method 100 also includes determining sequence changes of a second type 106 and setting separation markers of a second type 108 for sequence changes of the second type. In an exemplary embodiment, a sequence change of the second type is determined based on a change in an image content between successive images.